

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SS-20 L-03 PM-07 NSC-10

FEA-02 SAM-01 DRC-01 /101 W
----- 089104

R 191510Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4357

INFO COMICEDEFOR

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0300

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN IC

SUBJECT: PANAM SERVICE TO ICELAND

REF: STATE 023936

1. EMBASSY HAD BEEN AWARE OF PANAM'S PROPOSED SUSPENSION OF SERVICE THROUGH ICELAND FROM LOCAL PANAM STATION MANAGER WHO SAID HE AND OTHER TWO LOCAL EMPLOYEES HAVE BEEN GIVEN NOTICES OF TERMINATION OF THEIR JOBS, AND HE HAS BEEN DIRECTED TO DISPOSE OF LOCAL PANAM ASSETS. IN VIEW OF PRESENT ENERGY SITUATION, WE UNDERSTAND DIFFICULTY WHICH WOULD BE INVOLVED IN DEFLECTING PANAM FROM THESE PLANS AND FROM CLOSING OUT RUN ON WHICH IT CLAIMED ALREADY TO BE LOSING HEAVILY.

2. POINTS WHICH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED, HOWEVER, IN ANY APPROACH TO PANAM INCLUDE FOLLOWING:

(A) SUMMER ROTATION FOR BASE PERSONNEL ALWAYS REQUIRES MORE SPACE THAN IS AVAILABLE ON WEEKLY MAC CHARTER FLIGHT. PANAM CATEGORY Z RATES ARE CONSIDERABLY LOWER THAN LOFTLEIDIR FARES WITH RESULT THAT SUSPENSION WOULD MEAN INCREASED TRANSPORT COSTS BOTH TO DOD AND TO INDIVIDUALS.

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(B) LOFTLEIDIR SERVICE IS REGULARLY-SCHEDULED BUT QUITE

UNDEPENDABLE IN OPERATION. SUSPENSION OF PANAM SERVICE WOULD
LEAVE NO COMMERCIAL ALTERNATIVE EXCEPT LOFTLEIDIR.

(C) THERE WOULD BE NO COMMERCIAL ALTERNATIVE TO WEEKLY CHARTERED
MAC FLIGHT FOR REGISTERED MAIL AND SENSITIVE BASE SHIPMENTS
WHICH MUST BE CARRIED ON U.S. FLAG CARRIERS. PANAM HAS ALSO
CARRIED CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF ORDINARY MAIL SUPPLEMENTING
LOFTLEIDIR SERVICE.

3. IN EVENT DEPARTMENT UNSUCCESSFUL IN PERSUADING PANAM TO LIFT
SUSPENSION, EMBASSY WILL PLAN TO APPROACH LOFTLEIDIR ABOUT
POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING CATEGORY Z FARES FROM IT.
MARTIN

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Message Attributes

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